

April 6, 1999

The Honourable Allan Rock, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Health  
Room 441-S, Centre Block  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister:

**Re: Jamaican Canadian Association Community Centre Renovation Project**

This is a follow up to our previous correspondence to you dated March 17, 1998 regarding the above noted project.

Since we wrote to you our fundraising activities have raised \$300,000 cash with another \$110,00 in pledges. We were successful in getting the renovations started at the beginning of February with completion slated for mid July. The total cost of the renovation is \$886,000.

We are aware that governments expect us to do our part to raise money and we believe we have demonstrated that. Minister, we need financial help from your government to enable us to complete the renovations. Many of the services and programs which we will be offering will directly benefit many unemployed African Canadians, especially those in the North West area of Toronto, thus reducing the burden on government services.

Although we have made an appeal to both our M.P., Honourable Sergio Marchi and to Heritage Minister the Honourable Sheila Copps we have not been successful in getting a meeting. We recently received correspondence from Minister Copps office informing us that her department has no money for capital projects.

Our Centre will be a first for the African Canadian community in Ontario. We are writing to you because you are a senior minister in the government and you represent a riding that has a number of African/Caribbean residents.

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Honourable Allan Rock

Page 2

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Finally, we would like to get a meeting with you at your convenience either in Toronto or in Ottawa. Looking forward to your support in this worthwhile endeavour.

Yours truly,

Jamaican Canadian Association

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Herman Stewart".

Herman Stewart  
President

HS/ss